PENNSYLVANIA 4-H MEMBER

CODE OF CONDUCT

4-H members participating in or attending club, county, regional, district, state, and national programs, activities, events, shows, and contests sponsored for youth by the 4-H Youth Development Program of Penn State Cooperative Extension are required to conduct themselves according to the Pennsylvania 4-H Code of Conduct. The code operates in conjunction with the Pennsylvania 4-H Youth Development Program Behavioral Expectations and the rules and regulations of the specific activity.

Adults attending or participating in 4-H youth activities are expected to conduct themselves according to the code and to assist and support youth in their efforts to adhere to the code.

The following are not permitted at 4-H sponsored programs, activities, or events:

- Possession, consumption or distribution of alcohol.
- Possession, use, or distribution of illegal drugs.
- Possession or use of all tobacco products.
- Sexual activity.
- Boys in girls' rooms and girls in boys' rooms or lodging areas.
- Cheating or misrepresenting project work.
- Theft, destruction, or abuse of property.
- Violation of an established curfew.
- Unauthorized absence from program site.
- Physical, verbal, emotional, or mental abuse of another person.
- Possession or use of a weapon.*****
- Possession or use of a harmful object with the intent to hurt or intimidate others.
- Other conduct deemed inappropriate for the youth development program by an event chair; a designated Penn State extension agent, faculty, or staff member; or a 4-H volunteer leader.

******This does not refer to the equipment used in authorized shooting sports practice or competition.*

If the code is violated, the following steps may be taken:

- The adult chaperone for the youth involved in the violation (extension agent or 4-H leader) will be made aware of the situation.
- The parent(s) may be called and arrangements made for transportation home at the parent's expense.
- The 4-H'er(s) may be barred from participating in 4-H.
- When a violation occurs at a competitive event, 4-H members may be disqualified from the contest and be ineligible for any awards. Competition in later contests may also be barred. This will be determined by the event chair; a designated Penn State extension agent, faculty, or staff member; or a 4-H volunteer leader.
- If any laws are violated, the case may be referred to the police.
- All chaperones are responsible for all youth at an event.

PENNSYLVANIA 4-H YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
BEHAVIORAL EXPECTATIONS

A goal of the 4-H Youth Development Program of Penn State Cooperative Extension is to provide opportunities for children and youth to develop character. Pennsylvania 4-H supports the CHARACTER COUNTS![SM] six pillars of character: TRUSTWORTHINESS, RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, FAIRNESS, CARING, and CITIZENSHIP. In order to assure that the 4-H Youth Development Program of Penn State Cooperative Extension provides positive environments for all individuals to learn and grow, participants agree to abide by these expectations of behavior:

I will be trustworthy. I will be worthy of trust, honor, and confidence. I will be a model of integrity by doing the right thing even when the cost is high. I will be honest in all my activities. I will keep my commitments by attending all sessions of the planned event. If I am not feeling well or have a schedule conflict, I will inform my chaperone or a person in charge. I will be in the assigned area (e. g. club meeting room, building, dorm) at all times. Pennsylvania 4-H does not permit dishonesty by lying, cheating, deception, or omission.

I will be respectful. I will show respect, courtesy, and consideration to everyone, including myself, other program participants, and those in authority. I will act and speak respectfully. I will treat program areas, lodging areas, and transportation vehicles with respect. I will not use vulgar or abusive language or cause physical harm. I will appreciate diversity in skill, gender, ethnicity, and ability. Pennsylvania 4-H does not tolerate statements or acts of discrimination or prejudice.

I will be responsible. I will be responsible, accountable, and self-disciplined in the pursuit of excellence. I will live up to high expectations so I can be proud of my work and conduct. I will be on time to all program events. I will be accountable by accepting responsibility for my choices and actions. I will abide by the established program curfew. I will be responsible for any damage, theft, or misconduct in which I participate.

I will be fair. I will be just, fair, and open. I will participate in events fairly by following the rules, not taking advantage of others, and not asking for special exceptions.

I will be caring. I will be caring in my relationships with others. I will be kind and show compassion for others. I will treat others the way I want to be treated. I will show appreciation for the efforts of others. I will help members in my group to have a good experience by striving to include all participants.

I will be a good citizen. I will be a contributing and law-abiding citizen. I will be respectful to the environment and contribute to the greater good. I will not use any illegal substances such as tobacco, alcohol, and drugs.

[SM] CHARACTER COUNTS! Is a service mark of the CHARACTER COUNTS Coalition, a project of the Josephson Institute of Ethics.